

Example**The passage:**

Another myth of the oceans concerns Davy Jones, who in folklore is the mean-spirited sovereign of the ocean's depths. The name "Jones" is thought by some etymologists to have been derived from the name "Jonah," the Hebrew prophet who spent three days in a whale's belly.

Line
(5)

According to tradition, any object that goes overboard and sinks to the bottom of the ocean is said to have gone to Davy Jones's locker, the ocean-sized, mythical receptacle for anything that falls into the water. Needless to say, any sailor on the seas is not so eager to take a tour of Davy Jones's locker, although it might be a rather interesting trip considering all the treasures located there.

(10)

The questions:

1. The paragraph *preceding* this passage most probably discusses
 - (A) the youth of Davy Jones
 - (B) Davy Jones's career as a sailor
 - (C) a different traditional story from the sea
 - (D) preparing to travel on the ocean
2. The topic of the paragraph *following* the passage most likely is
 - (A) valuable items located at the bottom of the ocean
 - (B) where Davy Jones is found today
 - (C) Jonah and the whale
 - (D) preventing objects from falling overboard

The first question asks about the topic of the *preceding* paragraph, so you must look at the beginning of the passage and draw a conclusion about what probably came *before*. Since the passage begins with the expression *another myth of the oceans*, you should understand that the new passage is going to present a *second* myth of the oceans and the previous passage probably presented the *first* myth of the oceans. A *myth* is a *traditional story*, so the best answer to this question is answer (C). The second question asks about the topic of the *following* paragraph, so you must look at the end of the passage and draw a conclusion about what probably comes *after*. The passage ends with the mention of *all the treasures located there*, and *there* is in Davy Jones's locker, or at the bottom of the ocean; this is probably going to be the topic of the next paragraph. The best answer to the second question is therefore answer (A).

The following chart outlines the key information that you should remember about transition questions:

TRANSITION QUESTIONS	
HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION	The paragraph preceding the passage probably ... What is most likely in the paragraph following the passage?
WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER	The answer can generally be found <i>in the first line</i> of the passage for a <i>preceding</i> question. The answer can generally be found <i>in the last line</i> for a <i>following</i> question.